

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047465

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ECHULEN:PAW

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R 032305Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:PINT, RP

SUBJECT: LOPEZ CHARGES MARCOS WITH BLACKMAIL

1. MARCH 2 EDITION OF "PARADE", A NATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT CARRIED HERE BY "WASHINGTON POST", CARRIED FULL PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "EXTORTION IN HIGH PLACES", VENTILATING LOPEZ FAMILY CHARGES AGAINST MARCOS AND THE ROMUALDEZES. ARTICLE QUOTES EUGENIO LOPEZ, SR., TO EFFECT THAT MARCOS IS HOLDING EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., HOSTAGE IN ORDER TO BLACKMAIL THE LOPEZ FAMILY INTO SIGNING OVER THEIR VAST PROPERTIES IN SILENCE. LOPEZ, SR., ALSO CHARACTERIZES CHARGES THAT HIS SON WAS INVOLVED IN PLOT TO ASSASSINATE MARCOS AS "RIDICULOUS".

2. LOPEZ, SR., IS QUOTED AS DECLARING THAT HE HAS SIGNED OVER TO MARCOS HENCHMEN, CONTROLLED BY GOVERNOR BENJAMIN ROMUALDEZ OR PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ:

A. "THE MANILA CHRONICLE", FORCIBLY LEASED TO GOVERNOR ROMUALDEZ;

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B. THE ABS/CBN BROADCASTING NETWORK OF SIX TV AND 21 RADIO

STATIONS. LOPEZ, SR., ADDED HE HAD TURNED OVER TO MARCOS FOUNDATION HIS HOLDINGS IN MANILA ELECTRIC, WORTH AT LEAST DOLS 20 MILLION, IN HOPE HIS SON WOULD BE RELEASED. IN RETURN, HE HAS RECEIVED ONLY "RIDICULOUS" DOWNPAYMENT OF DOLS 1500.

3. ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY. WE ANTICIPATE IT WILL STIR UP FURTHER CONCERN HERE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. WHETHER BY COINCIDENCE OR NOT, WE HAVE JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT CONGRESSMAN UDALL WILL BE SENDING A STRONG LETTER TO AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ, PROTESTING GOP'S DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. REFERENCE BY LOPEZ, SR., TO IMEE MARCOS' PRESENCE AT PRINCETON, ASKING HOW HER PARENTS WOULD LIKE IT IF THE U.S. SUDDENLY HELD HER "HOSTAGE", COULD AGAIN RAISE THE SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH CAUSED US DIFFICULTIES IN THE EARLY PERIOD OF HER STUDIES HERE.

KISSINGER

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